(e) and (f) A proposal for creation of 17 posts of peons made by Doordarshan was not approved by the Government in view of ban on creation of 'Non-Plan' posts. However, they have been allowed as a special case to fill up existing vacancies in the grade of Peon to meet their immediate functional requirements.

(g) The posts are created on the basis of functional requirements and not merely with a view to absorb persons working on ad hoc basis.

Rural Development Programmes

1375. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to involve recognised voluntary organisations and beneficiaries in the rural development programmes; and

(b) whether the Central Government have directed the State Governments to ensure the role of the Panchayati Raj institutions in the field of rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

National Agricultural Inputs fortnight

1376. SHRI M. BASAVRAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Inputs Fortnight was celebrated from the 8th October, to 22nd October, 1984 by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, which of the States celebrated the above fortnight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions for observance of National Agricultural Inputs Fortnight throughout the country were issued by the Central Government to all the State Governments and Union Territories, nationalised banks and to all the agencies involved in distribution of agricultural inputs. Reports on observance of the fortnight were also received from various inputs agencies and all State Governments and Union Territories except from the States of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

Import of vegetable oils

1377. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vegetable oils worth crores of rupees are imported every year costing the exchequer heavily in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to improve on the production of Oilseeds in the country; and

(c) whether diversification of crops has been considered to meet the demands of Oilseeds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) For some time past, there has been a gap between the total demand and indigenous production of edible oils in the country. As a short term measure, the gap is partly met by import. However, the import is kept to the minimum.

(b) With a view to increase the production of oilseeds substantially, a Centrally Sponsored National Oil-

seeds Development Project is in operation from 1984-85 under which various incentives are provided for critical inputs to induce the farmers for better cultivation of Oilseeds.

(c) Efforts are being made to increase oilseeds production through area expansion by way of inter-cropping, multiple cropping, sequence-cropping and replacement of uneconomic crops by oilseeds crops. Emphasis is also being laid on growing groundnut during rabi/summer seasons.

Programme for the construction of low cost houses

1378. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to chalk out a special programme for the construction of low cost houses in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Housing is a State subject and the States/Union Territories are undertaking Schemes under their plans for various target groups in accordance with the plan priorities. The programmes in this regard include the Schemes for assistance through Housing and Urban Development Corporation for construction of Houses for economically weaker sections, the plan scheme for allotment of house-sites and provision of construction assistance to rural landless workers, to step up housing facilities for them and the provision of finances for low income grops through institutional assistance.

(c) The Seventh Five Year Plan Outlay for rural house-sites-cum-construction scheme is Rs. 576.90 crores.

Out of the total loan sanction target of HUDCO amounting to Rs. 1845 crores during the Seventh Plan period, 55 per cent has been earmarked for economically weaker sections and low income group beneficiaries.

The Delhi Development Authority proposes to build up one lakh units per year during the Seventh Five Year Plan, out of which, more than 80 per cent will be meant for allotment to economically weaker sections.

Supply of rotten wheat to the people of Bhopal

1379. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rotten wheat exposed to Union Carbide gas is being supplied through public distribution system to the people of Bhopal;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Food Corporation of India's godown in Bhopal is located in the same area where the Union Carbide tragedy took place; and

(c) what are the measures Government have taken to shift the godown of the F.C.I. to some safer place and issued immediate orders to withdraw the gas exposed wheat from the fair price shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir. No wheat in storage in Food Corporation of India was damaged due to gas leakage from Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal. Chemical examination of wheat stocks exposed to gas at Bhopal